

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 153

22p

the SCAR DESTROYERS



A COLONISED WORLD SUDDENLY GOES NOVA, AND A SOLITARY CRAFT FLEES BEFORE THE HEAVING TIDE OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY. IT MUST ESCAPE OR EARTH IS DOOMED!

STARBLAZER

**The Galaxy is so vast and wide
that incidents occur nobody
ever knows about. When a star
went nova in Zygma sector,
destroying a World and its
people, Earth colonists on the
far flung planets went about
their daily tasks unaware of the
fate of their fellow colonists . . .
until a craft escaped from a
second energy release, with the
dire warning. BEWARE . . .**



THE STAR DESTROYERS

FROM THE STAR THRAX, IN
THE SAGGITARIUS SECTOR,
A SOLAR FLARE SUDDENLY
BURST FORTH.

HOW SPECTACULAR!



THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.
THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY SAY
IT'S JUST A NATURAL
OCCURRENCE.



ON PLANET THRAX II THERE WAS
EXCITEMENT IN THE STREETS.



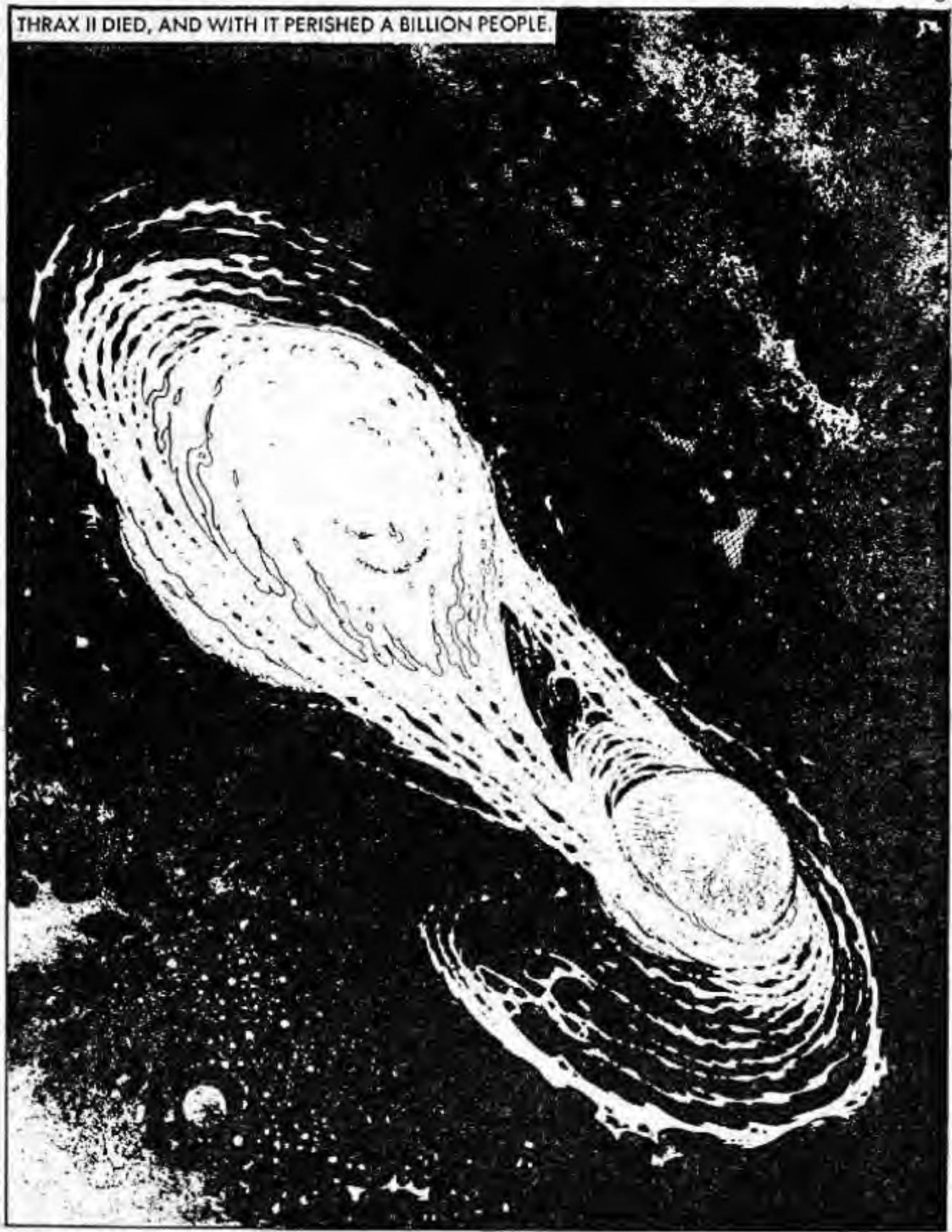
OH MY G...
IT'S GOING NOVA!

THERE WAS PANIC IN THE STREETS, PEOPLE RAN ...

... BUT THE SUN EXPLODED, SENDING OUT ITS WAVES OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY AT
INCREDIBLE SPEEDS.



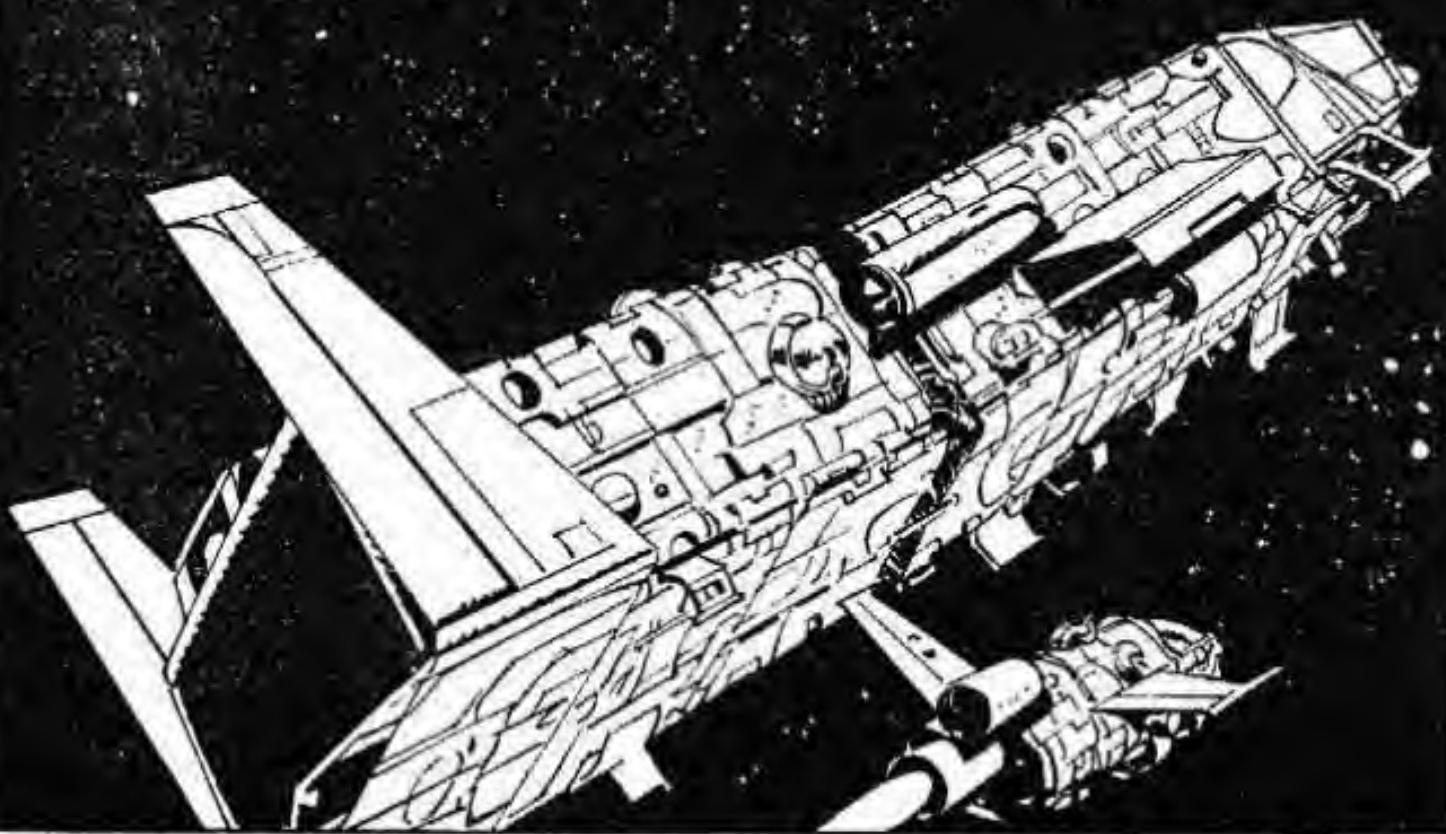
THRAX II DIED, AND WITH IT PERISHED A BILLION PEOPLE.



A THOUSAND PARSECS DISTANT IN THE ORION ARM, PREY TO SPACE HIJACKERS, A MAIL SHIP PLIED ITS DANGEROUS TRADE BETWEEN THE STARS.



BUT THE MAIL SHIP WAS NOT ALONE.

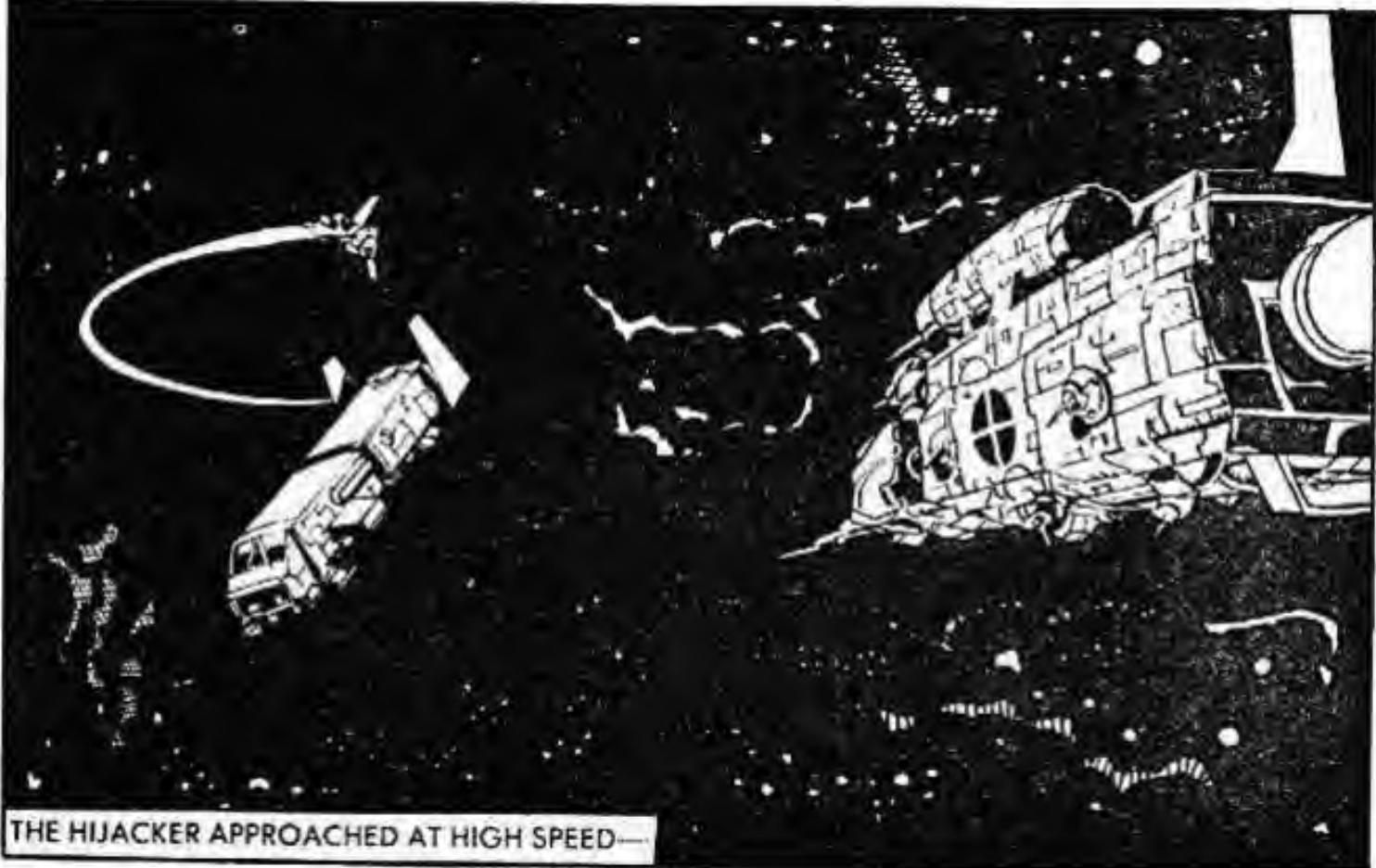


AGENT AL TAVER OF THE GALACTIC PATROL WAS ON STATION WITHIN THE MAIL SHIP'S FORCE FIELD.

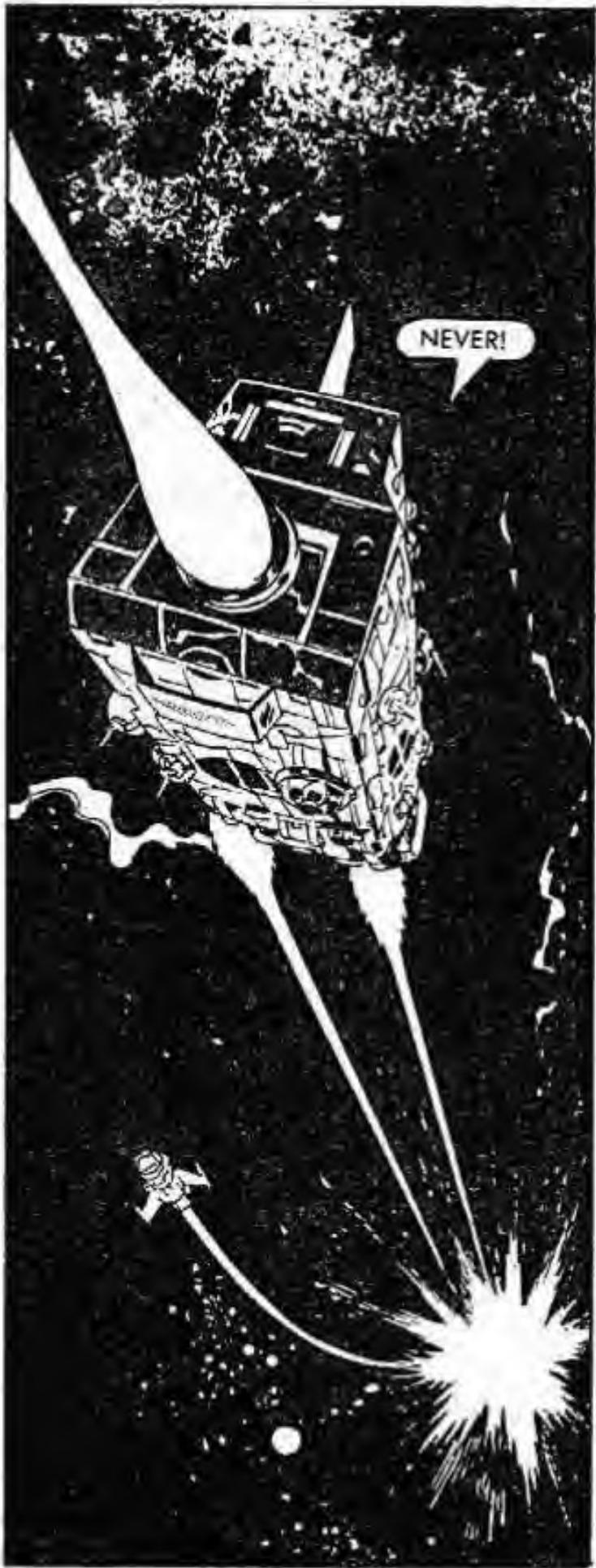
IS THAT A HIJACKER'S
SHIP, TACS?

THE PROBABILITY IS
97.38 PER CENT.

TACS WAS THE TACTICAL ACTION COMPUTER SYSTEM, THE SHIP'S FIGHTING COMPUTER.



THE HIJACKER APPROACHED AT HIGH SPEED—



A PRIORITY MESSAGE IS
COMING IN FROM HQ.

RECORD IT! WE'VE AN EVEN HIGHER
PRIORITY TO WORRY ABOUT AT THIS
MOMENT.



TAFER LINED UP HIS PHOTON TRACE, AND ONCE LOCKED ON THE TARGET, HE SQUEEZED THE FIRING ACTIVATOR—





FROM NOW ON THE MAIL
WILL GET THROUGH.

TACS, PUT THE MESSAGE
ON SCREEN.

ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL THIS IS
ADJUTANT KALE SUMMONING YOU
BACK TO INTERSTELLA—CATEGORY
1—IMMEDIATE.



AFFIRMATIVE.

CATEGORY 1—THE ULTIMATE
EMERGENCY. SOMETHING'S VERY
BADLY AMISS, TACS. PLOT THE
FASTEAST COURSE BACK TO
INTERSTELLA.



INTERSTELLA WAS A CITY BUILT BETWEEN THE STARS AND THE HOME OF GALACTIC PATROL.
IT TOOK TAFER ONLY MOMENTS TO HYPER JUMP THERE.



TAFER DISEMBARKED AND MADE HIS WAY TO HIS RENDEZVOUS—



TAFER WAS MET BY HIS SUPERIOR, LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN MITCHELL—

WHERE'S THE GENERAL? I
THOUGHT IT WAS A CRISIS.

IT IS AND HE'LL SEE YOU SHORTLY,
BUT FOR NOW COME WITH ME.



THEY HEADED FOR THE CITY'S HEART.

FIRST A VISIT TO THE ARMOURER AND
HAVE YOUR PERSONAL WEAPONRY
BROUGHT UP TO DATE.



IN A LABORATORY DEEP UNDERGROUND—

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

NEVERTHELESS A TINY LASER CANNON HAS BEEN
IMPLANTED INTO YOUR FOREFINGER. IT FIRES ON
BACKWARD PRESSURE AND DRAWS ITS ENERGY FROM
YOUR BODY—SO DON'T OVER-USE IT!

TRY IT!

IT WORKS! SO TELL ME ABOUT
THE CRISIS, MITCH.



IN THE BATTLE COMPUTER SECTION

THAT WAS THE STAR THRAX. IT WENT NOVA WITHOUT WARNING, TAKING A BILLION PEOPLE WITH IT.

THERE HAVE BEEN NATURAL NOVAE BEFORE, GENERAL.



HOW DO YOU EVACUATE THAT MANY PEOPLE? ALL I CAN DO IS TO ASK YOU TO GO THERE AND DO SOMETHING.



THANKS, GENERAL.



GOOD LUCK!

I MIGHT JUST NEED IT!



TEN UNITS LATER TAFER ARRIVED AT XEROS III.



TAFER WAS MET PRIVATELY BY THE
PLANETARY GOVERNOR.



TAFER BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATION IN THE
TAFER SPACEPORT PRECINCT.



AS TAFER LOOKED AROUND—



THE PLOT THICKENS — THESE TWO HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN WELL BRIEFED ABOUT ME.

TAFER ACTIVATED HIS ELECTRON HALO WHICH WAS FITTED TO HIS ARM —



THE INCREASED POWER GIVEN TO TAFER'S ARM PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HIS ASSAILANTS.

THE REMAINING THUG PULLED OUT A LASER-KNIFE.



A STRAIGHT-FINGERED JAB SENT THE THUG REELING —





TAFER MADE HIS WAY TO THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY —



TAFER CREEP IN AN UNGUARDED SIDE DOOR.





HELLO, AGAIN, GOVERNOR. I THINK YOU
SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDER
ARREST.



YOU'VE BEEN CLEVER, TAFER, BUT IT
WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. THE
MAGISTER VONOI HAS ORDAINED
THAT XEROS WILL EXPLODE, AND
WHAT THE MAGISTER DECREES . . .



THE GOVERNOR ATTACKED WITH SUDDEN FURY.

THE VONANS
ACCOMPLISH!



FINGERS LIKE STEEL CLAMPS CLASPED TAFER'S THROAT —

SEE, THE MAGISTER
IS NEVER WRONG!



THERE'S ALWAYS
A FIRST TIME!



THE GOVERNOR WAS REVEALED FOR WHAT HE WAS —



GREAT SPACE! HIS FACE HAS COME
AWAY IN MY HANDS — IT'S A MASK!

TAFER BEGAN TO FIT THINGS TOGETHER —

THE VONOI HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
JEALOUS OF EARTH'S POSITION.





SLOWLY SUFFOCATING WITHOUT HIS BIO-CHIPPED MASK, THE VONAN AGENT STRETCHED OUT FOR HIS SALVATION.



THE VONAN WAS WHOLE AGAIN—

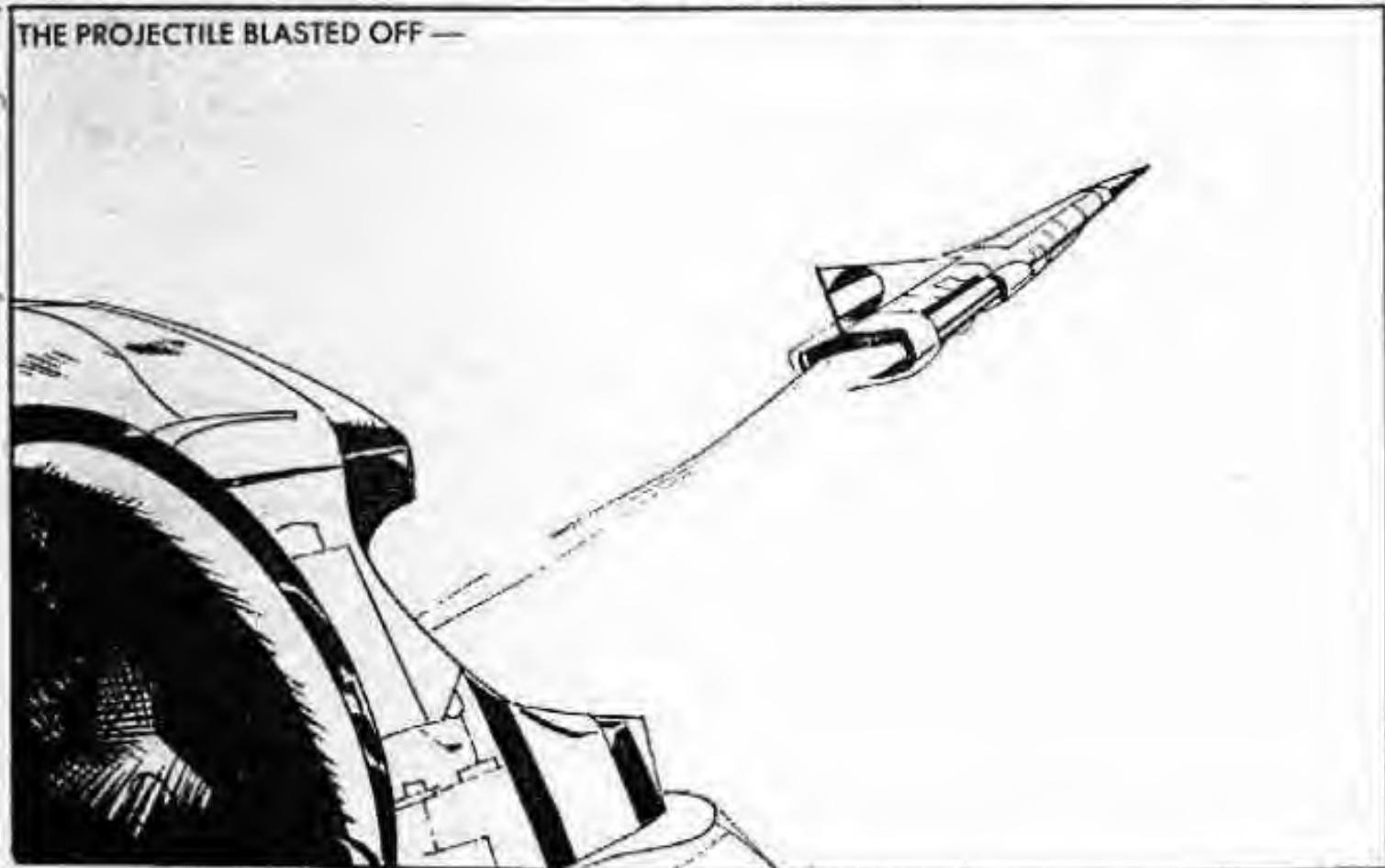


TAFER WAS SEALED IN THE PROJECTILE —

ORION'S HULKS! THE MADMAN'S
STARTED THE LAUNCHING SEQUENCE!

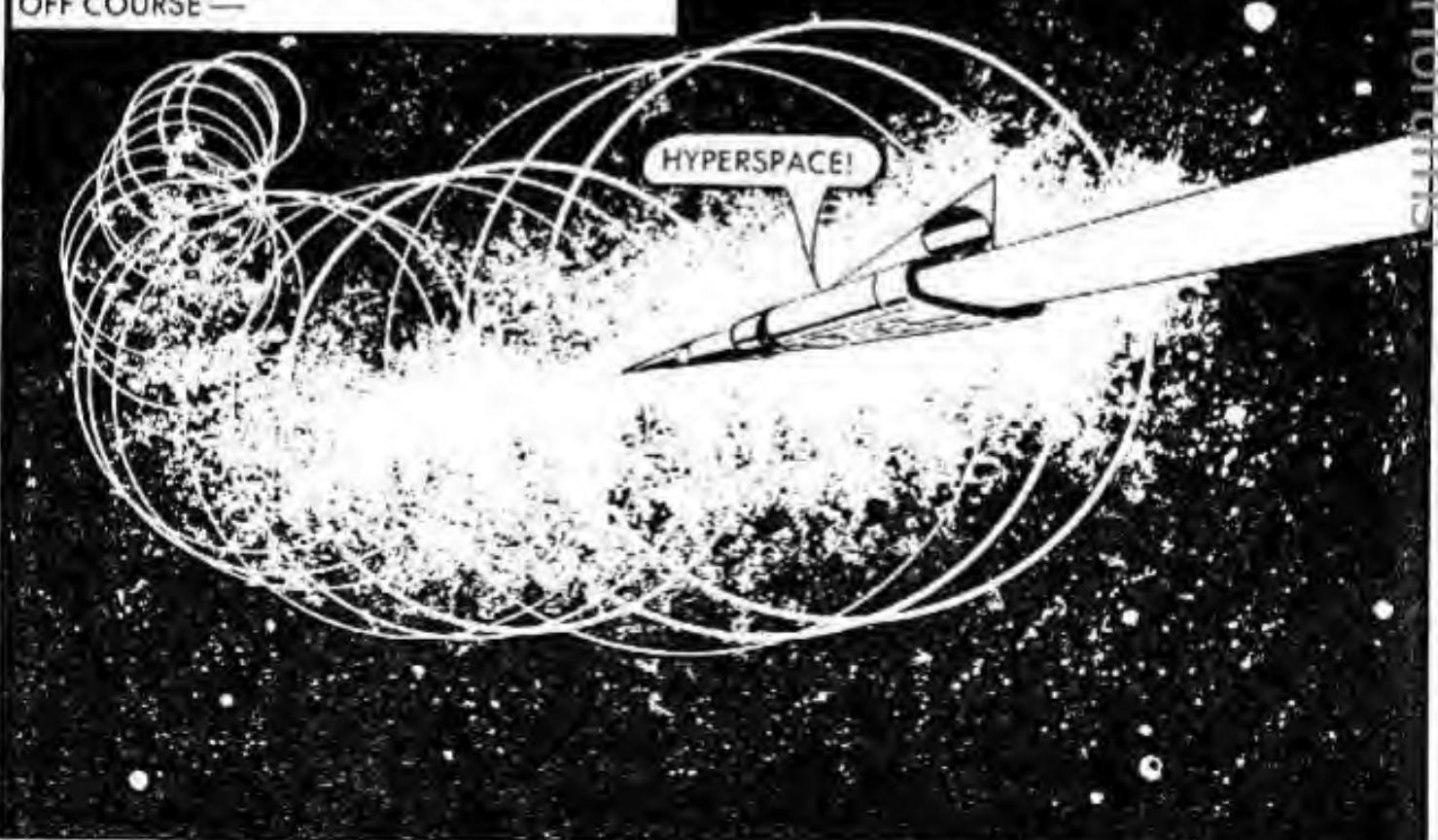


THE PROJECTILE BLASTED OFF —

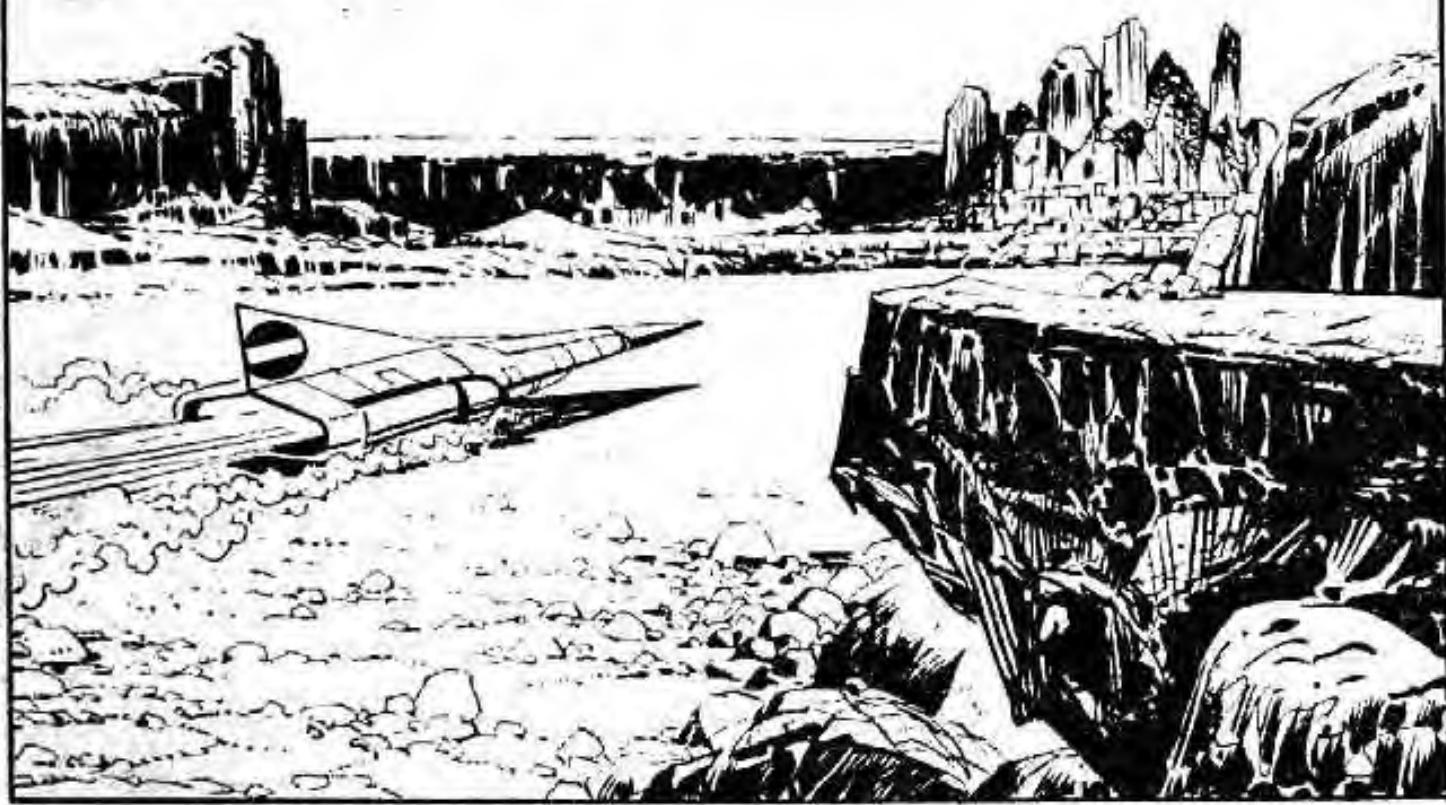




BUT THE LASER BLAST FLUNG THE PROJECTILE
OFF COURSE —

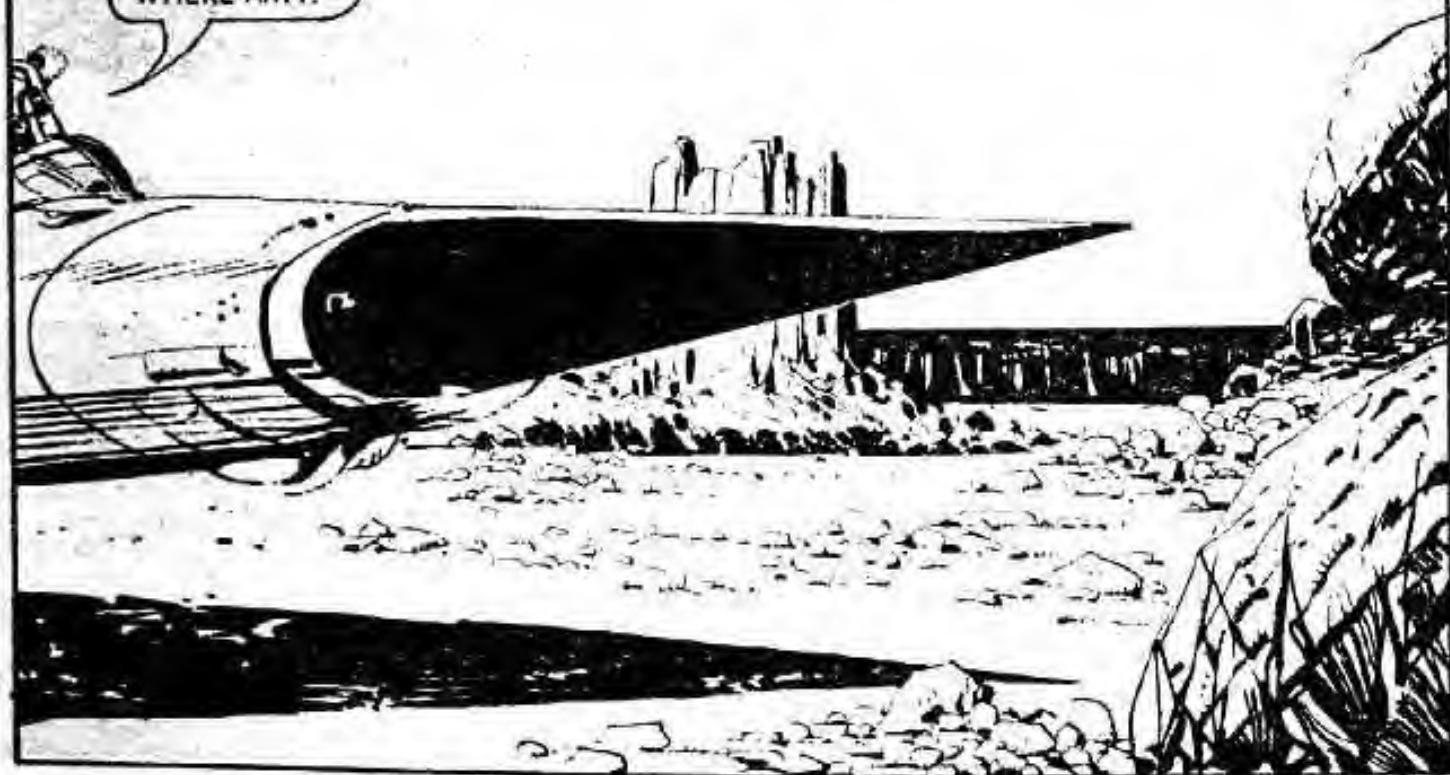


INSTANTS LATER, A MILLION PARSECS DISTANT, THE PROJECTILE CAME TO LAND ON A STRANGE PLANET—

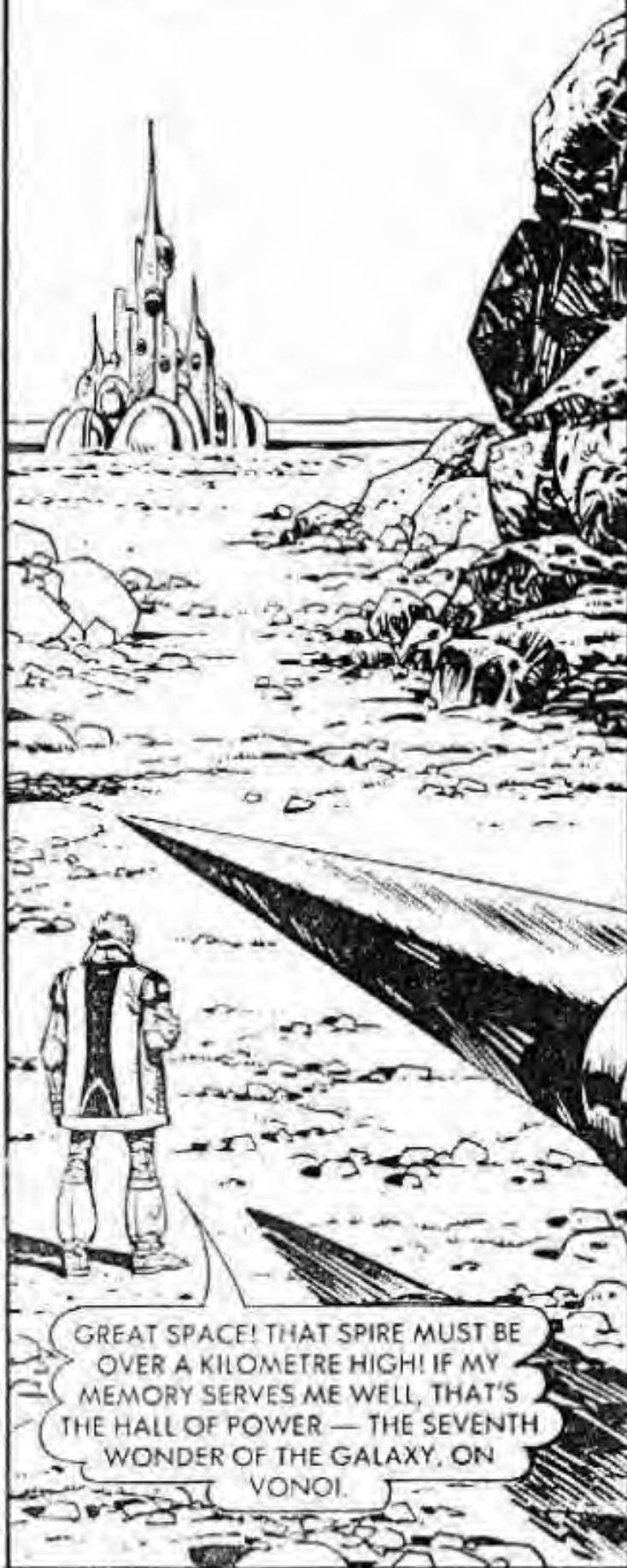


TAFER FORCED OPEN THE PROJECTILE MONOLOCK.

WHERE AM I?



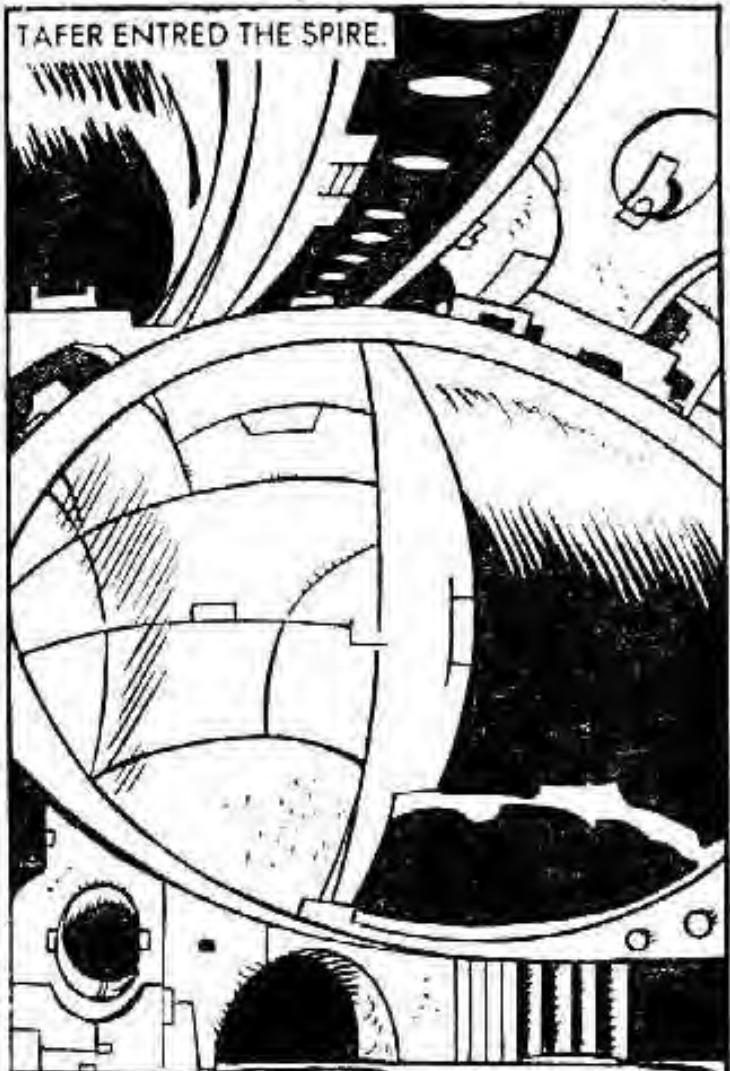
IT WAS A WORLD WITHOUT PLANT LIFE ...



STOP, EARTHTMAN!

SORRY, BUT
I'VE URGENT BUSINESS!

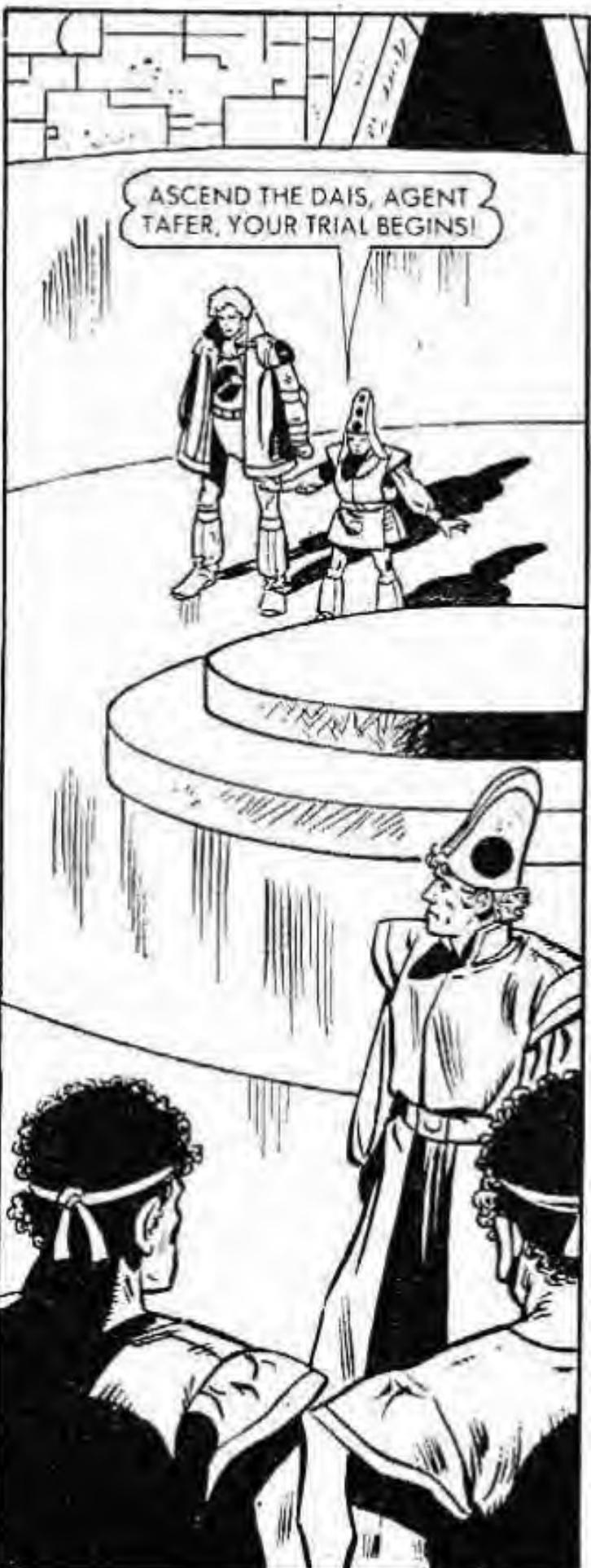
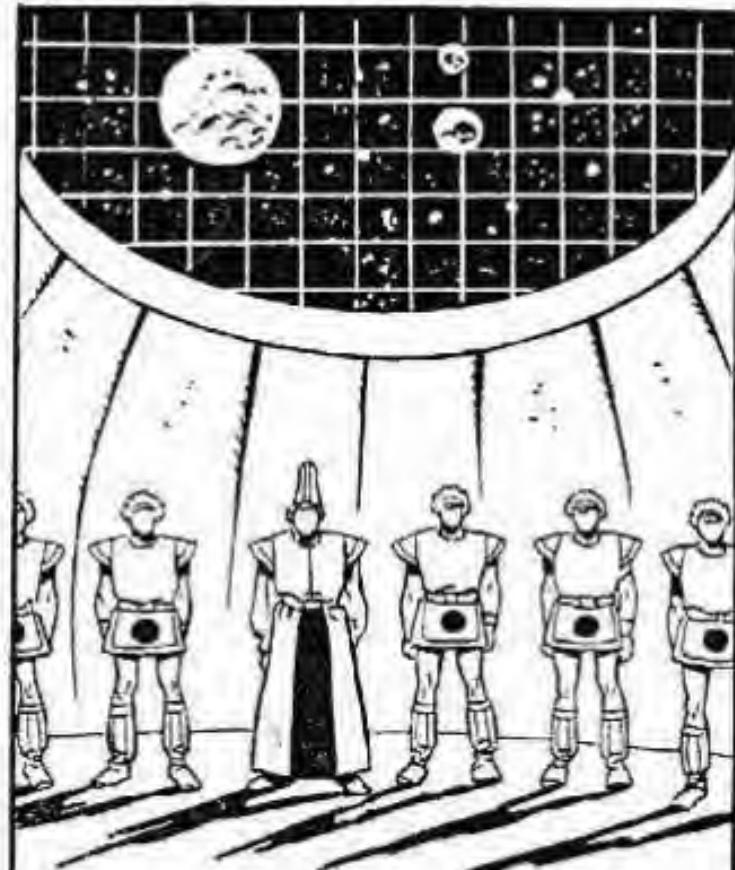




THE FIGURE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE!!!







THE FIRST QUESTION IS WHY HAVE YOU INTRUDED INTO THE SACRED PRECINCTS OF THE MAGISTER?

BY ACCIDENT! I WAS TRYING TO STOP USELESS DESTRUCTION. WHY DID YOU ATTACK HUMAN WORLDS?

YOU MAY NOT QUESTION THE DECISIONS OF THE MAGISTER. THE SENTENCE FOR TRESPASS HERE IS DEATH.

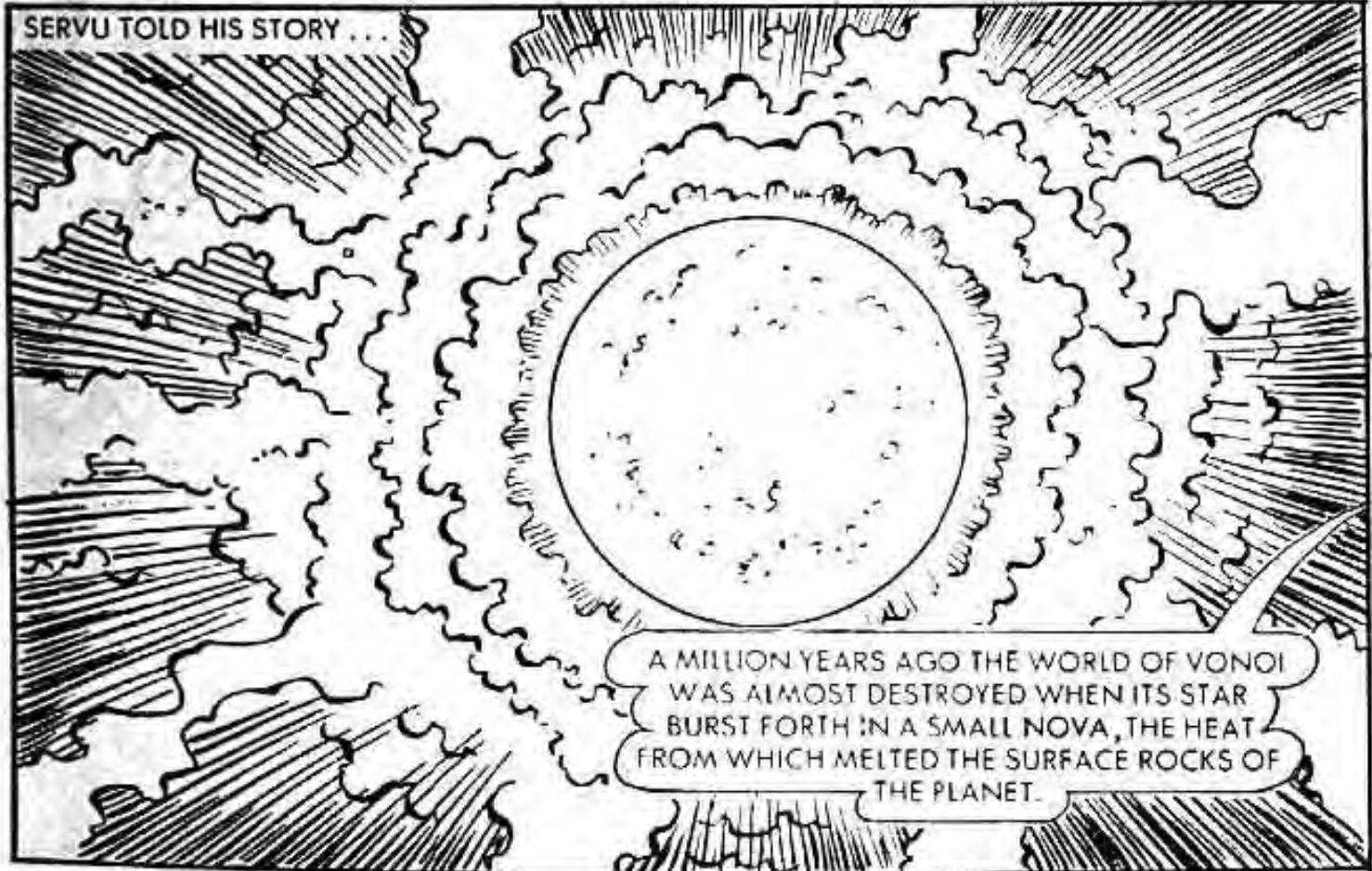
YOU CAN DESTROY ME, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THE WHOLE GALACTIC PATROL! THE GALAXY IS WIDE ENOUGH FOR ALL TO LIVE IN PEACE!



SERVU SET UP A HOLO-AURA WHICH ALLOWED A SPOKEN STORY TO BE ILLUSTRATED —



SERVU TOLD HIS STORY ...



BU THE VONANS HAD FORESEEN THE TRAGEDY
AND HAD DUG THEMSELVES CAVES DEEP IN THE
BOWELS OF THEIR PLANET.



THE VONANS ALSO CREATED THE MAGISTER –
THE GREATEST COMPUTER EVER CREATED BY ANY
RACE IN THE GALAXY...



SO THAT WHEN THE BLAST OF THE NOVA
SCORCHED AND TWISTED THE SURFACE OF THEIR
PLANET, THEY WERE SAFE – PROTECTED BY
MILES OF ROCK AND BY THE MAGISTER.





... MASKS! MASKS THAT HELD BUILT-IN MONITORS AND MECHANISMS THAT WOULD KEEP THEM ALIVE IN THE HELL THAT VONOI HAD BECOME. AND MORE THAN THAT — MAKE THEM ALMOST IMMORTAL!



THE IMAGES DIED -

SO NOW YOU UNDERSTAND,
EARTHMAN.



SO THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN JEALOUS OF US!
YOU HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY. BUT THAT GIVES
YOU NO RIGHT TO DESTROY OTHER WORLDS.



TAFER APPEALED TO THE COUNCIL.



SUDDENLY TAFER AND SERVU WERE ALONE —

COME, AGENT TAFER, SENTENCE HAS
BEEN PASSED UPON YOU.

THE COUNCIL'S DISAPPEARED! IT WAS A
COMPUTER ILLUSION. I SHOULD HAVE
REALISED — NO MASKS!

SERVU LED THE WAY.

WE SHALL SOON BE OUTSIDE. THE
VONANS WILL KILL YOU QUICKLY AND
MERCIFULLY.

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK!



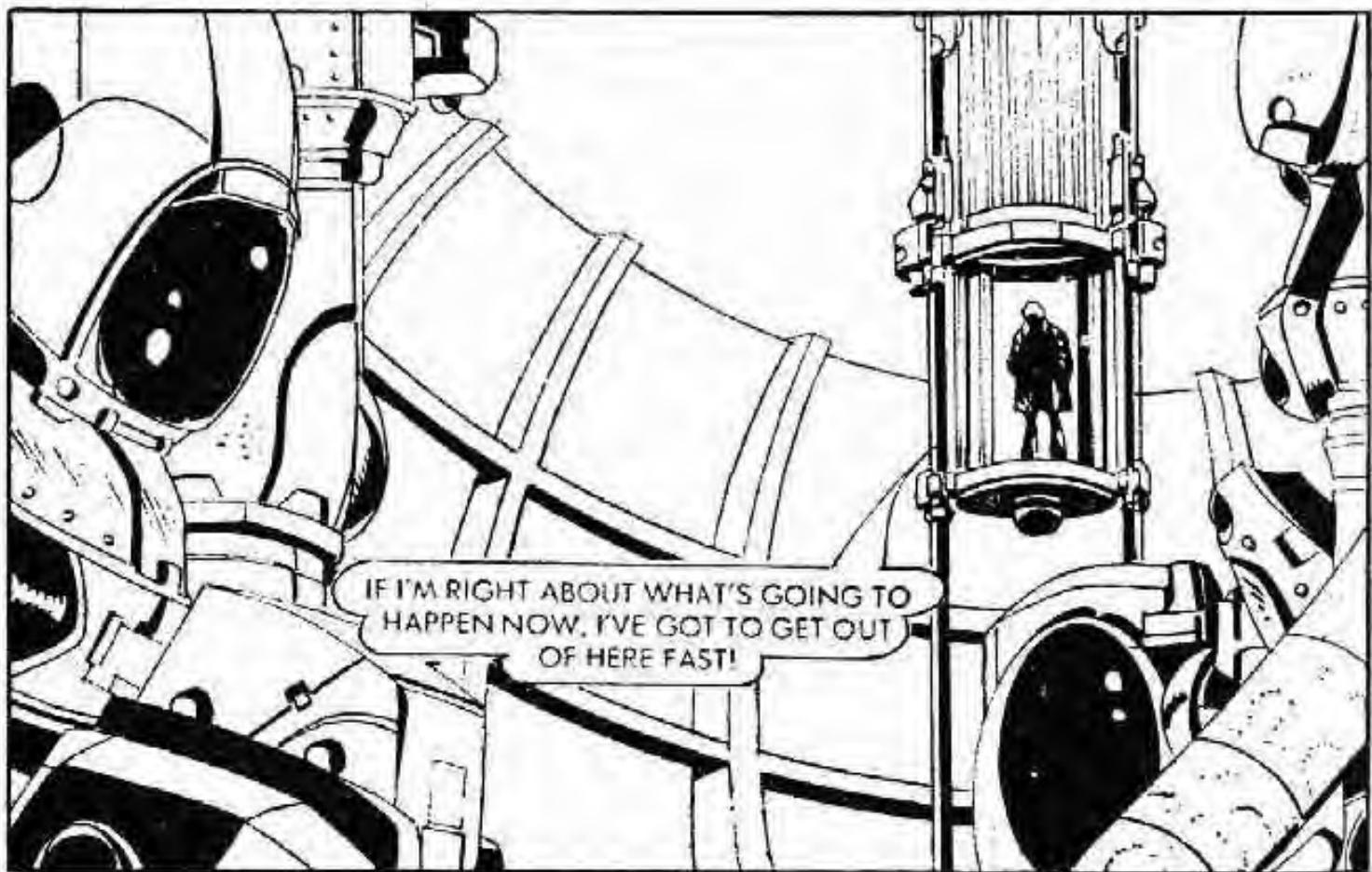


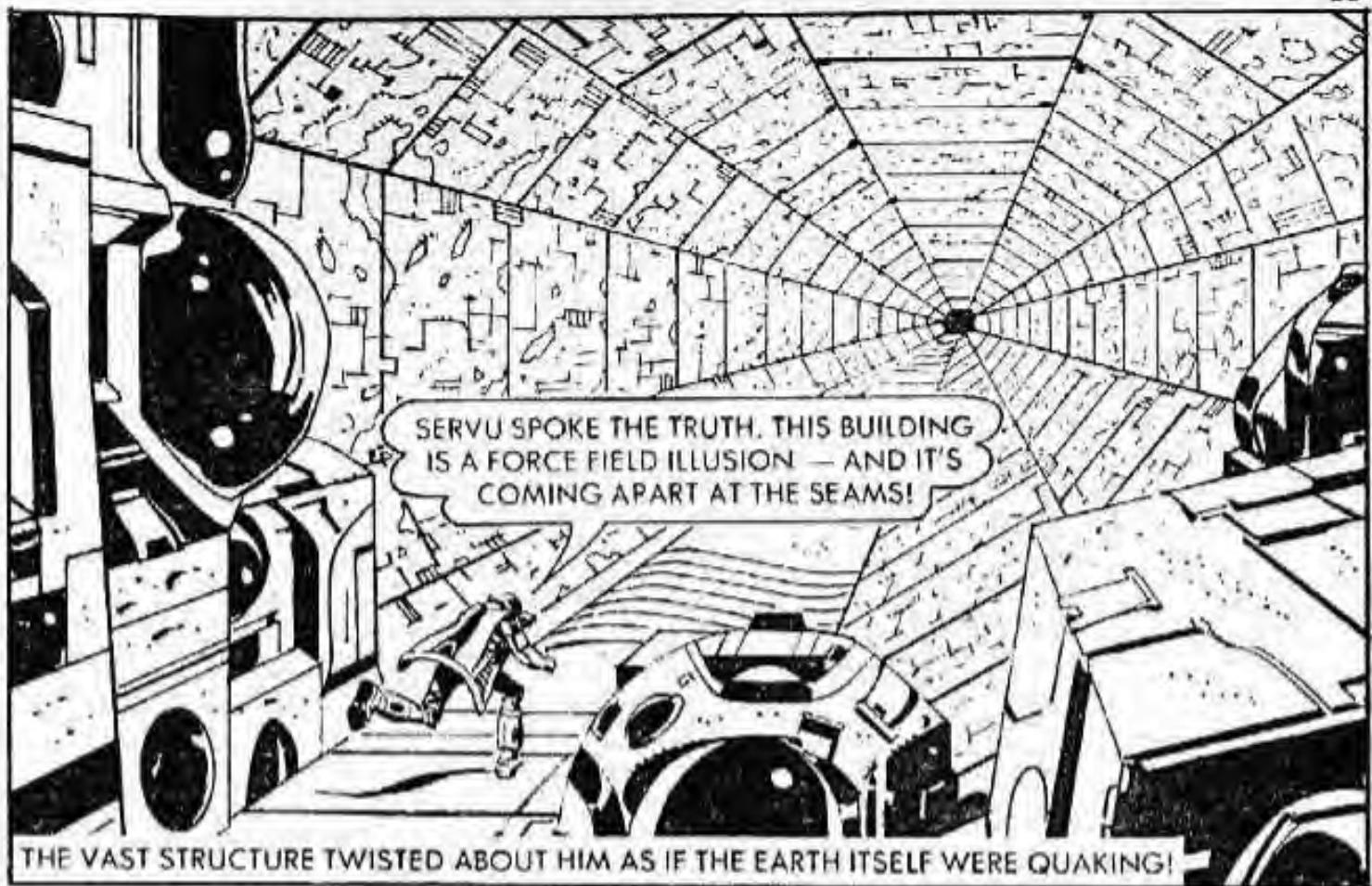
AN IDEA FORMED IN TAFER'S MIND





SERVU BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR —





THE VAST STRUCTURE TWISTED ABOUT HIM AS IF THE EARTH ITSELF WERE QUAKING!

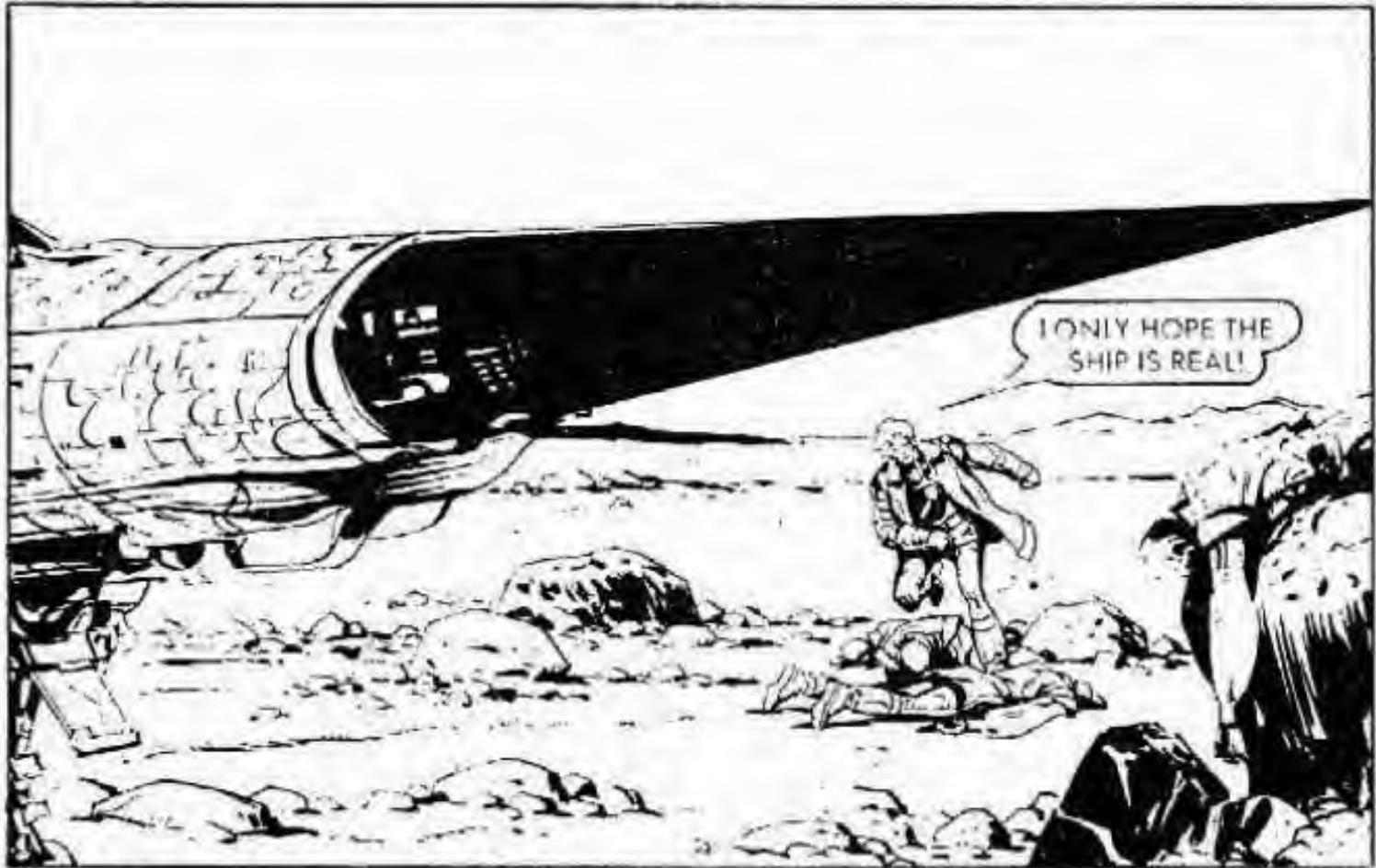


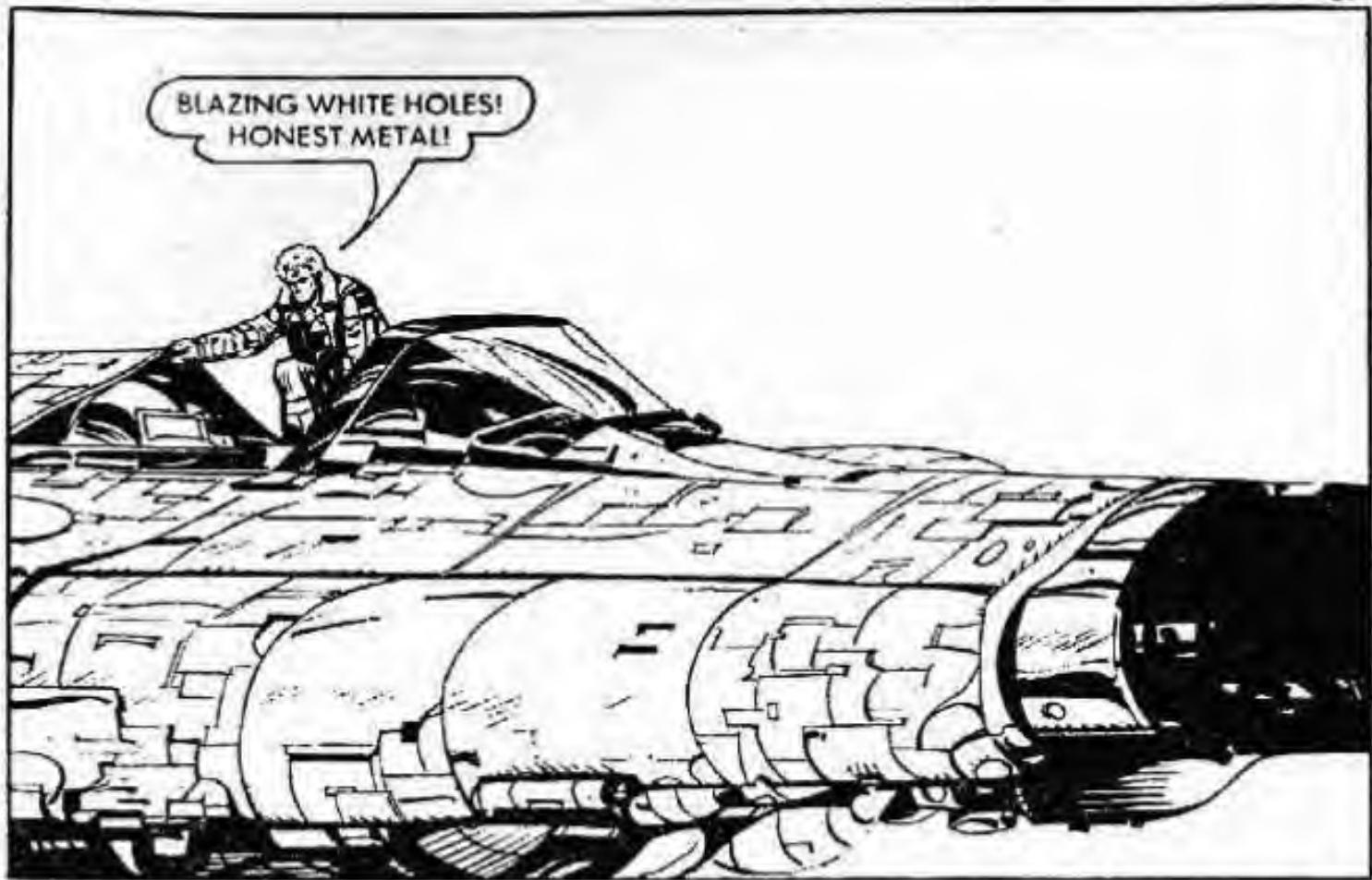
BUT THE VONANS PROVED TO BE NO PROBLEM.

THE MAGISTER CONTROLS THEM VIA
THEIR FACE MASKS. THEY ARE NOW
EXPOSED TO DEATH.



I ONLY HOPE THE
SHIP IS REAL!







IT WAS A RACE AGAINST TIME









TAFER HEADED FOR INTERSTELLA, AND THE LAST PART OF HIS MISSION.

TAFER REPORTED BACK TO HIS SUPERIOR —



SO, TWO BILLION PEOPLE ON
XEROS III WILL SURVIVE, BUT A
COUPLE OF THINGS DON'T ADD UP.



AND WHAT ARE THEY?

THE GOVERNOR OF XEROS III WAS A VONAN, AND YOU DON'T GET THAT FAR WITHOUT HELP. SECONDLY, WHEN I ARRIVED ON VONOI, COURTESY OF THE MISSILE, I WAS EXPECTED. THE ONLY WAY THAT COULD HAVE COME ABOUT WAS IF THE GOVERNOR HAD REPORTED THAT I HAD EVADED DEATH TO HIS SUPERIOR.





YES, TAFER — QUITE CORRECT!! ALAS, THE
KNOWLEDGE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD FOR I
WILL KILL YOU AND START AGAIN.





YOU'RE INGENIOUS, TOO
CLEVER FOR ME ...

CONGRATULATIONS, VONAN
AND GOODBYE ...



edit. & prod. by *jes*

DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S OTHER

STARBLAZER 22p
SPACE ROLE-PLAYING GAME IN PICTURES No. 152

DOOM WORLD!

AN ACTION PACKED SPACE ADVENTURE
STORY WHERE YOU MAKE THE DECISIONS!

On sale at your newsagent's **NOW!**



STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

B5

www.starblazer.co.nr

(for personal use only. Do not distribute)

Grechko, a previous cosmonaut entered space on December 10, 1977 in Soyuz 26. The mission was led by Lieutenant Colonel Yuri V. Romanenko (left), 33, Air Force. The mission lasted 96 days 10 hours. Romanenko also flew Soyuz 38 on September 18, 1980, for 7 days 20 hours 43 minutes.